

REMARKS

Claims 74-79 are pending in the present application. Claims 74-79 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,179,689 to Ohno et al. ("the Ohno reference").

The disclosed embodiments of the invention will now be discussed in comparison to the cited references. Of course, the discussion of the disclosed embodiments, and the discussion of the differences between the disclosed embodiments and the cited references, do not define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims. Instead, such discussed differences merely help the Examiner appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

The present application discloses methods and apparatuses for planarizing microelectronic substrates, and to a method for installing an elongated planarizing medium on a planarizing machine. In one embodiment, as shown in Figure 7 of the present application, a removable polishing pad cartridge 470 includes a polishing pad 440 a supply roll 424 and a take up roll 423. The supply roll 424 and the take up roll each include an axle 471 that extends through the respective roll. The supply roll 424 is spaced apart from the take up roll 423 by a cartridge frame 472. The cartridge frame 472 includes a linear member that extends directly between the two axles 471. Thus, the linear member extends directly between the supply roll 424 and the take up roll 423. Each axle 471 has a spline aperture 474 that extends through the axle.

The linear member of the cartridge frame provides numerous advantages. The linear member makes the cartridge 470 stable and easy to install. The linear member, which does not extend beyond the supply roll and take up roll, makes the cartridge 470 relatively compact.

Figure 7 of the present application also shows a planarizing machine 410 configured to receive the cartridge 470. The planarizing machine 410 includes a frame 414, a platen 411, a supply roll spindle 425 and a take up roll spindle 426. Each of the spindles 425, 426 is rotatably coupled to the frame 414 and includes a plurality of spaced apart splines 427 that extend along the length of the spindle.

The Ohno reference cited by the Examiner discloses a cartridge frame between the supply roll and the take-up roll. However, the cartridge does not include a linear member that directly extends between the supply roll and take-up roll. Rather, the linear member of the

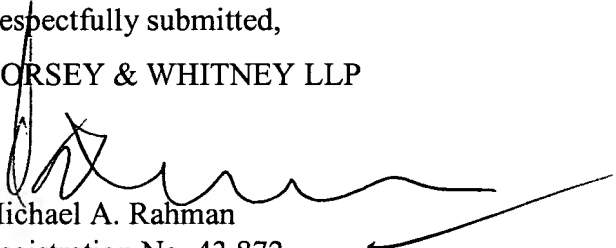
Ohno reference attaches two sides of a cassette 28. The linear member clearly does not directly extend between the axles of the supply roll and the take up roll.

Turning now to the claims, the patentably distinct differences between the Ohno reference and the claim language will be specifically pointed out. Presently amended independent claims 74 and 77 each recite in part, "the supply roll being attached to the cartridge frame having a linear member extending directly between the supply roll and the take up roll." As discussed before, the Ohno reference does not teach or fairly suggest the above limitations. Therefore, presently amended independent claims 74 and 77 are allowable over the Ohno reference. Claims depending from claims 74 and 77 are also allowable due to depending from an allowable base claim and further in view of additional limitations recited in the dependent claims.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+copy)
Request for Continued Examination (+ copy)

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